

BILLIE HOLIDAY

with LESTER YOUNG

Lady Day & Prez 1937-1941



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CD 53006
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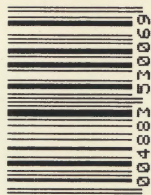
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| 20. YOU CAN'T BE MINE (AND SOMEONE ELSE'S TOO) (Johnson-Webb) - 1938 | 2'18" |
| 21. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME (Gaskill-McHugh) - 1938 | 2'43" |
| 22. SHE'S FUNNY THAT WAY (Whiting-Moret) - 1937 | 2'37" |
| 23. ROMANCE IN THE DARK (S. Coslow-G. Nelsen) - 1941 | 2'15" |
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TOTAL PLAYING TIME 67'42"

INFORMATION BOOKLET INSIDE

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ELEANOR "BILLIE" HOLIDAY

1915 She was born on April 7 in Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of parents who were too young to be prepared to take on the responsibility of running a family. Her father, who played the guitar, was 15, and her mother 13. They were both coloured. Billie's childhood was spent in an atmosphere of squalor and poverty.

1921 In a tragic accident, Billie accidentally caused the death of her great-grandmother. It was the first of many shocks in her life. Her father left his home and family.

1925 At the age of ten Billie was attacked and raped by a neighbour. The psychological damage she suffered was irreparable. She continued to live with her mother amid all sorts of difficulty.

1929 The economic crisis made life even more difficult. Billie was even a prostitute for a while.

1930 Billie was on the look-out for a job of any kind. She moved to New York with her mother. By a stroke of luck she found a job as a singer in a club called "Pod's and Jerry's". Her pay was very low. For almost three years she sang in New York clubs, earning very little.

1933 John Hammond heard her sing at the "Log Cabin" club and introduced her to Benny Goodman.

1934 She met Lester Young. She recorded with Benny Goodman but without great success. Her models were Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong.

1935 Again with the help of John Hammond, she started to record with Teddy Wilson and other famous musicians. The records made her name known to the general public. She went on tour with Count Basie and Artie Shaw, and her reputation began to grow.

1936 She met Lester Young again and a sentimental relationship started between them. From Lester, she learnt to use her voice as if it was an instrument. They made many recordings together. With Lester's help, Billie's technique improved and became far more personal.

Although their relationship was profitable in musical terms, in other ways it was damaging to them. They both started to take drugs.

Lester gave Billie the nickname of "Lady Day" and she called him "Pres" (short for "President").

1937 Billie continued to record with Teddy Wilson.

Billie's father died.

1939 Billie decided to include in her repertoire a dramatic, socially-committed song against lynching, entitled "Strange Fruit". It was a great success.

About this time she started to wear a gardenia in her hair, a habit which later became a kind of superstition.

1942 She recorded "Trav'lin' Light" with Paul Whiteman's band. The days of poverty were now far behind her. She was elegant, successful and very beautiful.

Unfortunately, however, her inner life did not match the exterior. Her health was steadily being undermined by alcohol, smoking and drugs.

1944 In January she took part in a memorable concert at the New York Metropolitan.

She also continued to perform in the clubs on 52nd street.

1945-46 Immediately after the war, Billie made an attempt to give up drugs. She underwent treatment but it was without success. She was put on the police files as a drug addict. She started to suffer from regular periods of depression. She never managed to give up alcohol, smoking and drugs. Although her health was very bad, she won the Metronome poll for the best female vocalist in both 1945 and 1946.

1946 She took part in the film "New Orleans" with Louis Armstrong. For some years she recorded with bands that bore her own name and performed in many different clubs. She became more and more dependant on heroin. The police never let her out of their sight. All of these things naturally had a negative influence on her artistic personality.

1954 She made a tour of England, Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland, Holland and France, and was a great success everywhere she went.

1956 Billie started to dictate her autobiography to the journalist William Dufty, later to be published under the title of "Lady Sings the Blues". Her health continued to get worse. Her marriage to Louis McKay, her husband and manager who seemed more concerned with her earnings than her health, was also destined to be a failure.

1958 She made another European tour, this time with little success. In Italy, in Milan, she was booed by the audience. Her fits of depression continued. She was continually harassed by the police who searched her before and after every show.

She was by now tired and very ill, and aware that her condition could never be overcome.

1959 After making her last recording, she was taken to the Metropolitan Hospital in New York after a serious attack of hepatitis, which also affected her heart. She died on July 17, at the age of 44, with policemen around her death bed. Her greatest friend, Lester Young, had died on March 15 of the same year.



**THIS YEAR'S KISSES
I MUST HAVE THAT MAN!**

New York City, January 25, 1937

Teddy Wilson and his Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Benny Goodman (cl) - Lester Young (ts) -
Teddy Wilson (p) - Freddie Green (g) - Walter Page (b) -
Jo Jones (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

I'LL GET BY / MEAN TO ME

New York City, May 11, 1937

Teddy Wilson and his Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Buster Bailey (cl) - Johnny Hodges (as) -
Lester Young (ts) - Teddy Wilson (p) - Allan Reuss (g) -
Artie Bernstein (b) - Cozy Cole (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

I'LL NEVER BE THE SAME

EASY LIVING

FOOLIN' MYSELF

New York City, June 1, 1937

Teddy Wilson and his Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Buster Bailey (cl) - Lester Young (ts) -
Teddy Wilson (p) - Freddie Green (g) - Walter Page (b) - Jo
Jones (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

WITHOUT YOUR LOVE

ME, MYSELF AND I

A SAILBOAT IN THE MOONLIGHT

New York City, June 15, 1937

Billie Holiday and her Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Edmond Hall (cl) - Lester Young (ts) -
James Sherman (p) - Freddie Green (g) - Walter Page (b) -
Jo Jones (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

TRAV'LIN' ALL ALONE

SHE'S FUNNY THAT WAY

GETTING SOME FUN OUT OF LIFE

New York, September 13, 1937

Billie Holiday and her Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Buster Bailey (cl) - Lester Young (ts) -
Claude Thornhill (p) - Freddie Greene (g) - Walter Page (b) -
Jo Jones (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME

New York City, January 6, 1938

Teddy Wilson and his Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Benny Morton (tb) - Lester Young (ts) -
Teddy Wilson (p) - Freddie Green (g) - Walter Page (b) - Jo
Jones (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

BACK IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

New York, January 12, 1938

Billie Holiday and her Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - Bennie Morton (tb) - Lester Young (ts) -
Teddy Wilson (p) - Freddie Greene (g) - Walter Page (b) -
Jo Jones (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

YOU CAN'T BE MINE

New York City, September 15, 1938

Billie Holiday and her Orchestra

Buck Clayton (tp) - probably Dickie Wells (tb) - Lester
Young (ts) - "Countess" Margaret "Queenie" Johnson (p) -
Freddie Green (g) - Walter Page (b) - Jo Jones (d) - Billie
Holiday (vcl).

SAY IT WITH A KISS

New York City, November 9, 1938

Teddy Wilson and his Orchestra

Harry James (tp) - Bennie Morton (tb) - Edgar Sampson,
Benny Carter (as) - Lester Young, Herschel Evans (ts) -
Teddy Wilson (p) - Al Casey (g) - Walter Page (b) - Jo Jones
(d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

THE MAN I LOVE

New York City, December 13, 1939

Billie Holiday and her Orchestra

Buck Clayton, Harry Edison (tp) - Earle Warren (as) - Lester
Young (ts) - Jack Washington (as/bars) - Joe Sullivan (p) -
Freddie Green (g) - Walter Page (b) - Jo Jones (d) - Billie
Holiday (vcl).

LAUGHING AT LIFE / TIME ON MY HANDS

New York, June 7, 1940

Billie Holiday and her Orchestra

Roy Eldridge (tp) - Billy Bowen, Joe Eldridge (as) - Kermit
Scott, Lester Young (ts) - Teddy Wilson (p) - Freddie
Greene (g) - Walter Page (b) - J.C. Heard (d) - Billie Holiday
(vcl).

GEORGIA ON MY MIND

ALL OF ME

LET'S DO IT

ROMANCE IN THE DARK

New York City, March 21, 1941

Eddie Heywood and his Orchestra

Shad Collins (tp) - Leslie Johnkins, Eddie Barefield (as) -
Lester Young (ts) - Eddie Heywood (p) - John Collins (g) -
Ted Sturgis (b) - Kenny Clarke (d) - Billie Holiday (vcl).

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